

DRAFT

Blue Lick

Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan
FY 2017-2026



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Blue Lick Conservation Area, # 9301
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1993
- **Acreage:** 390 acres
- **County:** Saline County
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Wildlife
- **Statement of Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

- Manage open land habitats for early successional wildlife species.
- Maintain and enhance wetlands, old fields, and grassland communities.
- Maintain limited agricultural food plots for wildlife benefit.
- Manage woodland/forest and riparian corridor communities using best management practices.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Blue Lick Conservation Area (CA) is examples of healthy bottomland forest; an opportunistic wetland that provides habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds; and a diverse grassland restoration.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. **Priority Areas:** None
- B. **Natural Areas:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. **Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
- B. **Caves:** None
- C. **Springs:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) Natural History Biologist.
- D. **Other:** Blackwater River frontage (5,000 feet), Finney Creek frontage (4,900 feet), wetland areas, and saline seep natural communities

III. Existing Infrastructure

- 3 water control structures
- 3 low level berms
- 2 gravel parking lots

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. Easements:** None
- D. Cultural Resource Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. Endangered Species:** None observed.
- F. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Manage and control invasive woody vegetation in wetlands.
- 2) Manage and control invasive species in old fields and grasslands.

Management Objective 1: Increase and maintain diversity of moist soil plants in flood plain areas and wetland areas.

Strategy 1: Apply management techniques using water control structures at appropriate intervals during various times of year to increase and maintain plant diversity on one-third of the wetlands and flood plain acres per year. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Apply appropriate herbicides or use other techniques, as needed, to control reed canary grass, Johnson grass, and woody vegetation in the wetlands. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 2: Control invasive species in old fields, grasslands, and forests.

Strategy 1: Utilize appropriate management techniques including but not limited to herbicide treatment, mechanical manipulation, and prescribed fire to reduce and manage invasive species. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 3: Manage current food plots with small grain crops and green browse for wildlife benefit.

Strategy 1: Use equipment to plant small grain food plots, create soil disturbance in fields, and establish green browse plots. (Wildlife)

Management Objective 4: Use results of planned 2017 forest inventory to guide forest prescriptions.

Strategy 1: Implement management activities prescribed after the 2017 forest inventory in fiscal years 2018-2020 to improve forest health. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Follow best management practices to minimize erosion or negative water quality impacts in the Blackwater River and Finney Creek watershed when conducting management efforts (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014) .(Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Establish and maintain a 100-foot wide riparian corridor along the Blackwater River and Finney Creek.

Management Objective 1: Maintain a forested riparian corridor along the Blackwater River and Finney Creek.

Strategy 1: Allow trees to regenerate in the riparian corridors. (Wildlife)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Management Objective 1: Provide area users compatible and inviting opportunities for recreation, education, and information.

Strategy 1: Maintain accurate area information and regulations through annual review of the Atlas database, area brochures, posted information, and staff contacts with area users. (Wildlife)

Strategy 2: Promote compatible safe opportunities for hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, nature photography, and bird watching. (Wildlife)

Strategy 3: Monitor and document multiple-use conflicts or concerns. Identify timing, seasons, and special use permit options to minimize and resolve potential conflicts. (Wildlife)

Strategy 4: Work with Protection Division personnel to enforce existing area regulations and identify any needed changes. (Protection)

Management Objective 2: Provide public fishing opportunities in the Blackwater River and Finney Creek.

Strategy 1: Maintain the area in a manner that invites public use. (Fisheries)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Terrestrial Resource Management										
<i>Objective 4</i>										
Strategy 1		X	X	X						

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Blue Lick Conservation Area was purchased for the saline seep natural community areas located on the area, which provide a unique habitat. The area was also purchased for its upland and wetland habitat to provide public land in Saline County for hunting, river fishing, and related outdoor activities.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Feet	% of Area
Forest	247		63
Grassland	81		20
Wetland	46		12
Old Fields	9		3
Cropland	4		1
Infrastructure	2		<1
Impounded Water	<1		<1
Total	390		100
Stream Frontage (Blackwater River ~5,000 feet, Finney Creek ~4,900 feet)		9,900	

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). *Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams*. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Aerial Photo/Infrastructure Map

Figure 3: Cover Type Map

Figure 1: Area Map

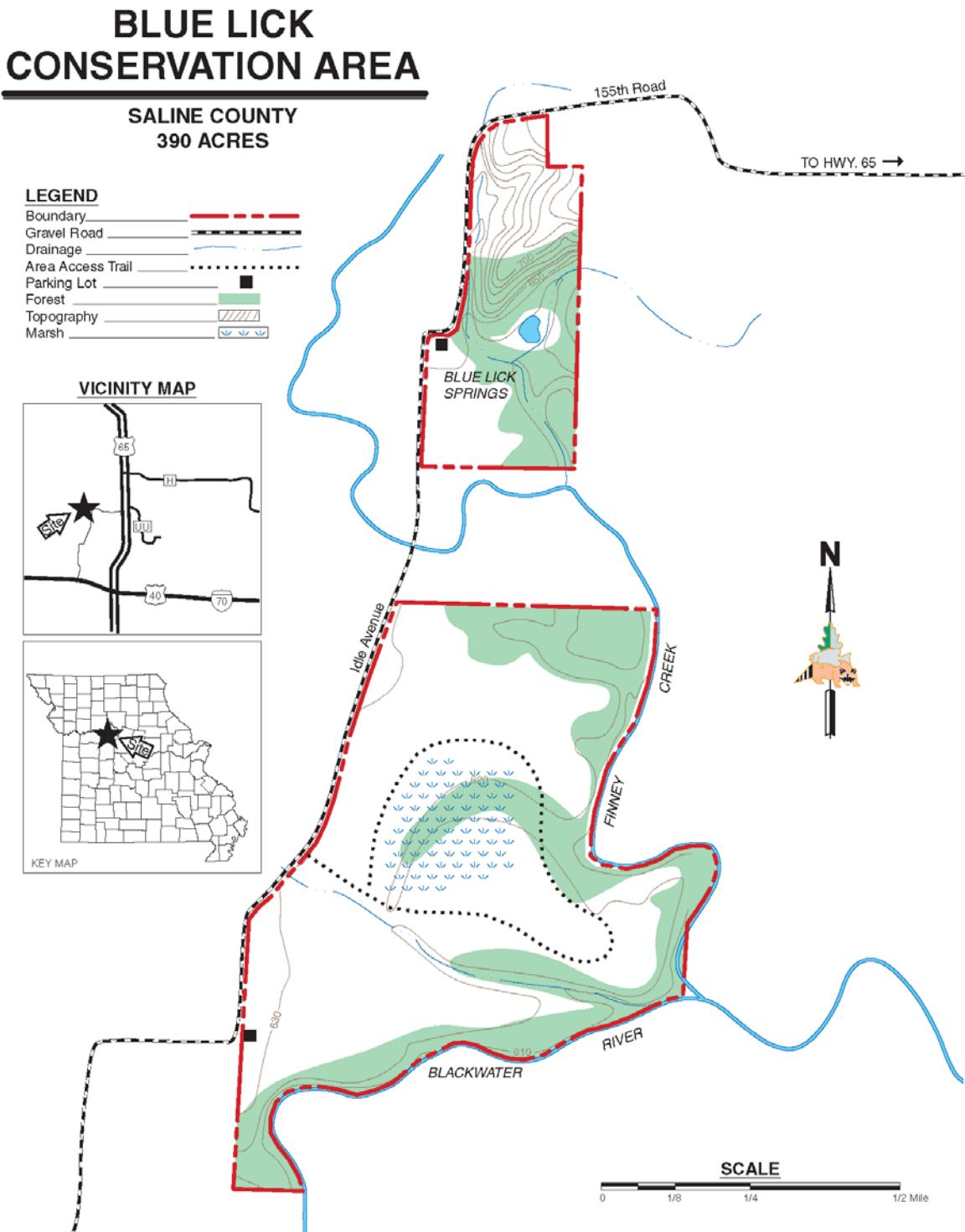


Figure 2: Aerial Photo/Infrastructure Map

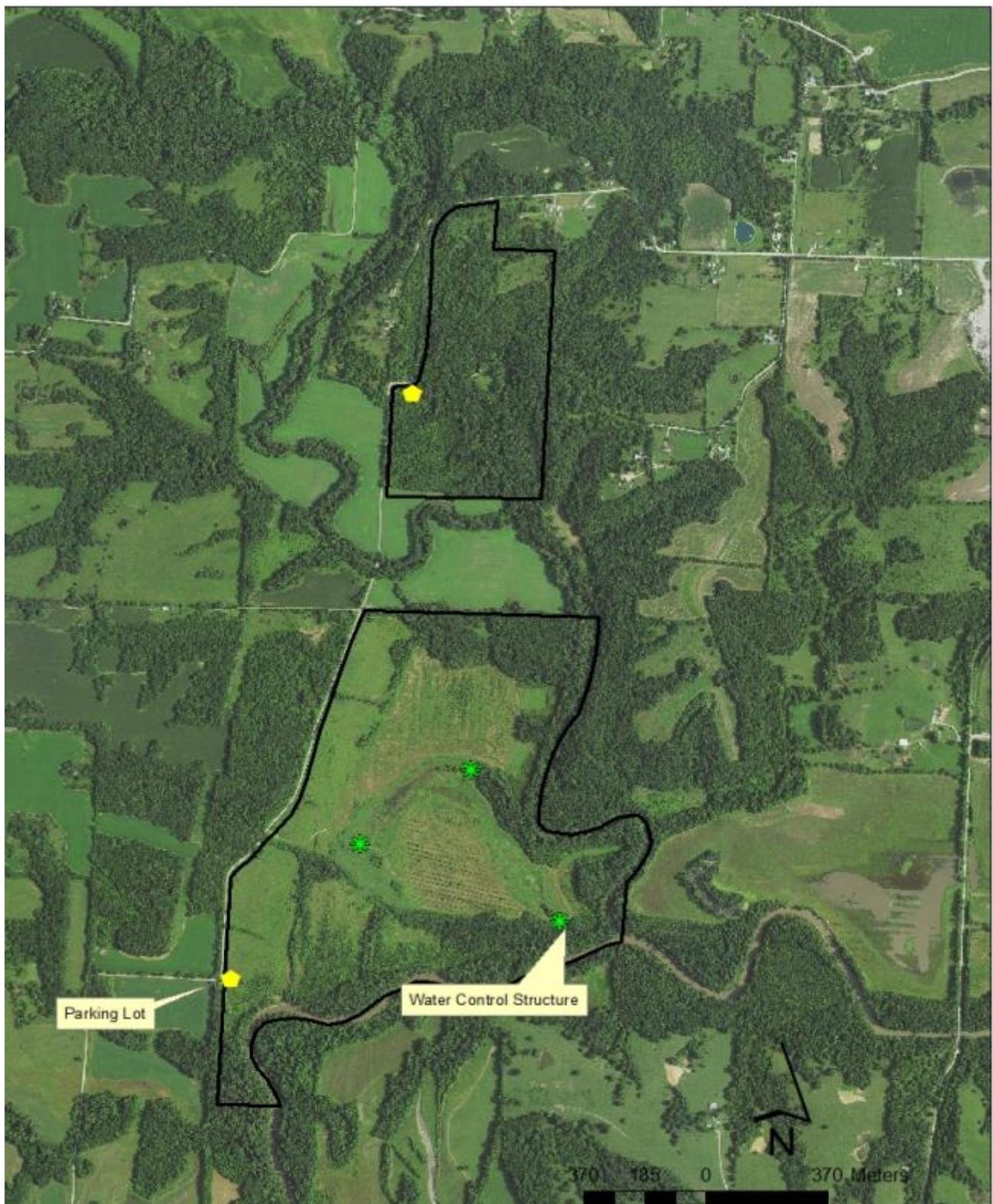
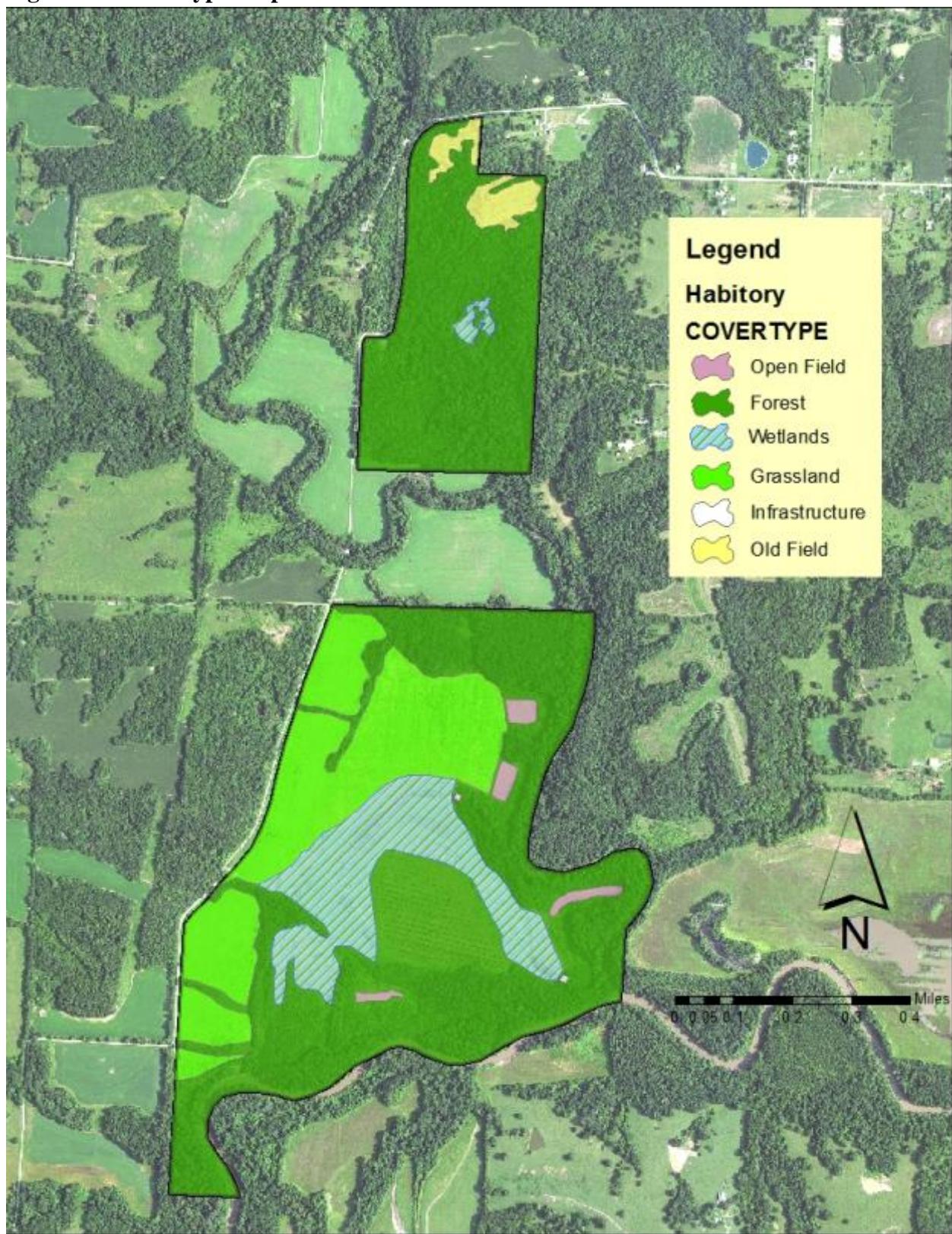


Figure 3: Cover Type Map



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